

second consecutive Missouri Class 5 Boys Basketball Championship for the Poplar Bluff Mules.

Anchored by an aggressive defense and a balanced offense, the Mules turned back many deserving opponents in their march to the championship.

I also congratulate their coach, John David Pattillo, and the excellent leadership he has provided. With a staff of dedicated assistant coaches and a great deal of support from students and parents, he created a program for which all of us can be proud.

I congratulate the students and coaches of Poplar Bluff High School on their exceptional championship season.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE REGIONAL ACADEMIC KENTUCKY NEW ERA/ROTARY REGIONAL ACADEMIC ALL-STAR TEAM PROGRAM

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize nominees for the Regional Academic All-Star Team from the Pennyroyal region in western Kentucky.

The regional Academic All-Star program's purpose is to recognize top academic scholars and performers. Students from Caldwell, Christian, Trigg and Todd Counties of Kentucky were nominated based on their academic performance in seven disciplines: English, foreign language, journalism, mathematics, science, social studies and the creative and performing arts. The students are judged on their core academic score, the curriculum of the student, their grade point average, academic honors earned, unique accomplishments and achievements, extra-curricular activities, employment history, and an autobiographical essay.

Education is the foundation upon which we reach our human potential. Students in Kentucky are developing their talents, furthering their education, and pursuing their aspirations in life through programs such as the Academic All-Star program. Encouragement and recognition develop confidence and achievement among young Americans—the future leaders of our country.

The following students have been nominated for their academic excellence:

Griffin Blane, Christian Co. High School; Gregory Kyle Rader, Hopkinsville High School; Ralph King Anderson IV, Trigg Co. High School; Kody Douglas Carpenter, University Heights Academy; Dianne Lisette Rousseau, Caldwell Co. High School; Lauren Whitney Scott, Heritage Christian Academy; Jennifer Renea Fowler, Todd Co. Central High School; Samantha Joy White, Christian Co. High School; Chad Darrel Brown, Todd Co. Central High School; Casey Jo Calhoun, Trigg Co. High School; Bryan Hill, Hopkinsville High School; David Clayton Blake, Heritage Christian Academy; Stephanie Leigh Huntsman, Caldwell

Co. High School; Danielle Diane Brown, Heritage Christian Academy; Matthew Wyn Lewis, Hopkinsville High School; Kristin Averitt Dickinson, Todd Co. Central High School; Brittany Nichole Goodenough, Trigg Co. High School; Haylee Laura Lynne Ortiz, Christian Co. High School; Drew Martin Swain, University Heights Academy; Sarah Christine Wilson, Heritage Christian Academy; Marianne Wynn Lassiter, Hopkinsville High School; Amy Beth Shemwell, Todd Co. Central High School; Brandon Bowron, Trigg Co. High School; Jerika Nashea Wilson, Trigg Co. High School; Melissa Nail, Hopkinsville High School; Kathryn Elizabeth Gill, Todd Co. Central High School; Jonathan Christopher Bass, University Heights Academy; Zachary Daniel Ferguson, Christian Co. High School; Erika Elaine MacMillan, Heritage Christian Academy; Ryan David Mullen, University Heights Academy; Andrew Christian Chiles, Hopkinsville High School; Barry Eli Knoblock, Todd Co. Central High School; Paul Thomas Latham, Christian Co. High School; Joshua Allen Fitzhugh, Trigg Co. High School; Sarah Christine Wilson, Heritage Christian Academy; William Matthew Suiter, Todd Co. Central High School; Amy Nicole Adams, Caldwell Co. High School; Norman Bradley Fox, University Heights Academy; Juliana Elyse Patterson, Trigg Co. High School; Robert Kyle Whitaker, Heritage Christian Academy; Pretesh Parmar, Hopkinsville High School; Nicholas Pickford Thompson, Christian Co. High School; Dustin Glynn Kostalek, Hopkinsville High School; Ann Marie Crabtree, Trigg Co. High School; Kelley Lynn Smiley, Christian Co. High School; Meera Ramesh Patel, University Heights Academy; John Hayes Laster, Todd Co. Central High School; Emily Scott, Heritage Christian Academy; Sarah Beth Vied, Caldwell Co. High School.

These students embody the spirit, commitment, and sacrifice that we all should strive for in our daily lives. The citizens of Kentucky should be proud to have these young men and women in their community. Their example of dedication and hard work should be an inspiration to the entire Commonwealth. I extend my thanks to these students for their efforts, and I am proud to bring their accomplishments to the attention of the Senate.●

HATTIE CARAWAY

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, every year in March we celebrate Women's History Month. It offers us the opportunity to honor the women who have made historical contributions to our Nation. It also allows us time to reflect on their achievements, which continue to inspire us every single day.

Today, I rise in tribute to one of these very special women. A woman dear to my heart and dear to the hearts of generations of Arkansans, whose courage and convictions forever

changed the history of this Great Body. That woman is Hattie Ophelia Wyatt Caraway. On January 12, 1932, this Arkansan became the first woman ever elected to the United States Senate.

When we think of the life of Hattie Caraway, we think of a life devoted to the family, State, and country that she loved so deeply. Those who knew her were drawn to her endearing sense of humor, her gentle and dignified manner, and her warmth. The example she set, both personally and professionally, has always been an inspiration to me, and as the second woman to serve Arkansas in the U.S. Senate, I feel a special bond with Hattie and am humbled to follow in her footsteps.

Hattie Caraway came to this distinguished body on November 13, 1931, following the death of her husband, Senator Thaddeus Caraway. An appointment by the Governor of Arkansas allowed her to temporarily fill the seat of her husband, and the historic special election that followed allowed her to achieve what no woman had ever achieved—an elected seat in the U.S. Senate. It was not only a testament to the openmindedness and fairness of the people of Arkansas, but it was a testament to Hattie Caraway and the kind of woman she was.

Upon the conclusion of her husband's term, it was generally expected that Hattie would retire and quietly settle down with her family back in Arkansas. In doing so, the seat that she and her husband had proudly served for 12 years would go to one of the candidates, including a former Governor and U.S. Senator, who were now running for the nomination. But Hattie Caraway was never one to make decisions based on the expectations of others. With a firm belief that "women are just as loyal, courageous, and self-sacrificing as men," she stood boldly in the face of overwhelming odds to campaign for a full Senate term. Although she had little campaign funding and was less experienced than her male opponents, she got support from an unlikely source—the legendary Senator Huey Long, of neighboring Louisiana.

Not only were the Caraways and the Longs close friends but Senator Long had come to respect his new female colleague for her undaunted courage in voting against special interests and standing up for the people in her home State. Upon arriving in Arkansas for the campaign, what the two of them would accomplish together that first week of August in 1931 would become legend. The week-long "Hattie and Huey Tour" wound its way through the State, speaking in more than 35 communities, traveling over 2,000 miles, and drawing huge crowds. With the fiery Long imploring crowds that, "If Wall Street and their gang succeed in defeating enough Senators who have stood with the people like this little woman from Arkansas has . . . You'll never be able to get anyone from this State to stand by you again," he effectively introduced Hattie to new areas

of the State. As a result, the depression-stricken Arkansans who had endured months of unemployment, poverty, and low farm prices began to see Hattie Caraway for who she was, an honorable friend and neighbor who would always remain an advocate for the best interests of them and their families. At the polls, the people of Arkansas stood by Hattie in overwhelming numbers, doubling the votes of her nearest rival and carrying 61 of Arkansas' 75 counties.

In the Senate, it was rare for "Silent Hattie" to participate actively in debate or deliver a speech to the chamber. She had learned from her husband's years of public service and was weary of the politicians who placed a higher priority on hearing their own voice than working on behalf of the people they were elected to represent, often remarking, "It's funny how they talk on after we've all made up our minds." Senator Caraway took her responsibilities as a legislator seriously and built a reputation among her colleagues as a woman of integrity who showed a determination to faithfully champion the interests of Arkansas above everything else.

Although she maintained her political independence, Hattie was a proponent of much of the legislation proposed under President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal. As a friend to the veterans and a critic of lobbying groups, Hattie also advocated commercial aviation safety and used her seat on the Senate Agriculture Committee to fight for farm relief and flood control on behalf of Arkansas farmers. Her diligent service and effective advocacy of legislation for Arkansas won her another term in 1938, beating in the Democratic primary a legend in Arkansas politics who would later serve 34 years in the U.S. Senate, John L. McClellan.

Quickly becoming accustomed to breaking the Senate's gender barriers, Hattie became the first woman to chair a Senate committee, the Committee on Enrolled Bills, in 1933 and 10 years later would become the first woman to serve as Presiding Officer on the floor of the Senate. Her legacy would also be distinguished by the support she offered for many of the Nation's historical pieces of legislation. One of these bills was President Roosevelt's lend-lease proposal and Hattie gained national notoriety by speaking assertively on its behalf. This program of lending supplies and materials to England to assist in their war effort was viewed by many isolationists in the United States as an unnecessary measure that would drag our Nation into war. In that time, women were seldom involved in issues of war and national security but Hattie's voice was influential in passing the lend-lease bill through Congress. Hoping to avoid war at all costs, she felt lend-lease would only strengthen England's effort to provide the "last wall protecting us from Naziism." As the proud mother of

sons serving our Nation in uniform, she was a credible voice on the issue and her plea to view the matter without emotion struck a chord among Americans.

Hattie's historic Senate career came to a conclusion during the Democratic primary of 1944, when she was defeated by another Arkansas political legend, J. William Fulbright. At the conclusion of her final term, Hattie was honored by her Senate colleagues with a standing ovation on the floor of the Senate. Those on hand described it as "almost without precedent."

Although Hattie passed away in December of 1950, her impact is still felt in the institution she served and by all of those who have found inspiration in the life she led. In 1996, a portrait of Hattie was placed just outside the Senate Chamber in the U.S. Capitol. The portrait is only the second in the Senate's permanent art collection which honors a woman; the first is Pocahontas. In 2001, Hattie made history again when she became the first Arkansan to ever appear on a stamp and I was proud to help unveil the 76-cent Hattie Caraway definitive stamp, as a part of the Postal Service's "Distinguished Americans" series.

While there are many ways for us to remember Hattie, her lasting legacy will live on in those who have been inspired by her example and in the generations of women seeking elective office who have followed the road she has so boldly paved. We have come a long way since the Suffragist Movement at the beginning of the last century, and we have women like Hattie Caraway to thank. Thirty-one women have followed Hattie Caraway to the U.S. Senate, and today, a record 14 women are currently serving. With the 68 women serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, a record 82 currently women serve in the U.S. Congress today. Hattie would be proud. It is up to us to continue the progress she made and to urge a new generation to follow the heroic example set by her and so many other pioneering women.

When I think of Hattie Caraway, I think of a quote she made throughout her 1932 campaign. I carried it with me throughout my first Senate campaign: "If I can hold on to my sense of humor and a modicum of dignity, I shall have a wonderful time running for office whether I get there or not." Well, Hattie, you got there. In the process, your humor carried you through and your dignity earned you the affection of generations who are inspired to follow in your footsteps despite whatever barriers they may encounter or traditions they must overcome.

In the illustrious history of this great body and in the hearts of those who are inspired by her courage, one woman clearly stands out. Her name is Hattie Caraway. I am proud that she is from my home State of Arkansas, and I am proud to call her one of my heroes.

Each of us has our own personal story about a woman who has provided

our lives with hope and inspiration. During this month, take some time to tell that story. By doing so, you will not only honor their efforts but may also inspire a member of our younger generation with both the imagination to think a bit larger, and the courage to boldly turn their dreams into reality.●

ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate one of Montana's fine educational institutions on its first national championship title. Rocky Mountain College, located in Billings, is Montana's oldest institution of higher education. Last weekend, the men's ski team became the overall national champions at the 27th Annual US Collegiate Ski Association Championships.

Montana's schools may be smaller than the (average universities around the Nation, but Rocky Mountain College has again proven that smaller schools can achieve giant results.

Under Coach Jerry Wolf's leadership, the men's ski team made history for Rocky Mountain College by leading the men's ski team to their first national championship in the school's history.

However, the men were not the only ones from the Big Sky State to shine that day. The Women's ski team finished 10th overall. Both teams have made it to the national championships for the last 4 consecutive years but never with this excellent combination of results.

I want to recognize three students who finished events with times in the top 10: Pete Petry, Erik Willborg, and Johanna Aaker. I know how hard all of the students on the ski team worked to achieve these fantastic finishes, and I am pleased to represent such talented individuals.

To both the men's and women's ski teams of Rocky Mountain College, congratulations on your fantastic seasons.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTED MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:30 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by